

ACCEPTANCE OF A STATUE OF GEN. THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO.

APRIL 11, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WETMORE, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. J. Res. 84.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 84) for the acceptance of a statue of Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, to be presented to the United States by the Polish-American citizens, have had the same under consideration and report it back without amendment.

The report of the House Committee on the Library recommending the passage of this resolution is attached hereto.

[House Report No. 2101, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 84) for the acceptance of a statue of Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko, to be presented to the United States by the Polish-American citizens, respectfully report the same back to the House of Representatives with the recommendation that it do pass.

The resolution reads as follows:

“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the offer of a statue of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, to be erected on one of the corners of Lafayette square, in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, by and at the expense of the Polish-American organizations and of the Polish-American people of the United States generally, as an expression of their loyalty and devotion to their adopted country, for the liberties of which Kosciuszko so nobly fought, which offer has been made through Theodore M. Helinski, president of the central committee of the Polish-American organizations of the United States, be, and the same hereby is, accepted: Provided, That the selection of the site on Lafayette square, the approval of the statue offered, and the manner of its erection shall be under the control and direction of a commission consisting of the Secretary of War and the chairmen of the Committees on the Library of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Congress.”

The statute referred to in the resolution was offered to the United States in the following letter to the President:

CHICAGO, ILL., January 14, 1904.

SIR: We, the undersigned representatives of the respective Polish organizations to which our names are hereunto attached, composing an aggregate membership of more than 250,000, on behalf of such organizations and on behalf of the Polish people

of the United States in general, have authorized and empowered Mr. Theodore M. Helinski, president of the Pulaski Monument Polish Central Committee and a member of the Pulaski Statue Commission, to confer with you and with all other persons, committees, or commissions that may have authority to consider the same, concerning the presentation by such organizations and by the Polish people of the United States of a suitable statue of Thaddeus Kosciuszko to the United States Government, and, if acceptable, to offer, on behalf of such organizations and of the Polish people of the United States, such statue to the United States Government.

It is the desire of such organizations and of the Polish people that a place be reserved for such statue on Lafayette square in the city of Washington.

Mr. Helinski has also full authority to accept any and all conditions that may be imposed in regard to the design, completion, cost, and presentation of such statue, and all expenses in regard thereto, including, of course, the cost of such statue, are to be borne by the organizations by us represented and by the Polish people of the United States.

We offer this gift to the Government as a token of the loyalty and devotion felt by the Polish people of the United States for their adopted country, and for the liberties of which, now so happily enjoyed by them, Kosciuszko so nobly fought.

M. B. STECRYEULK,
Polish National Alliance, United States of North America.

LEON SZOPINSKI,
Polish Catholic Union of America.

A. KRUEGER,
Catholic Federation of Trinity Church.

B. W. REICHEKI,
Polish Turners' Alliance of America.

W. YELLING,
Polish Singers' Alliance of America.

J. M. SIENKIEWICH,
Young Men's Alliance of America.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
President of the United States.

This generous and patriotic offer was transmitted to Congress by the President by special message, as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith lay before the Congress a letter from the Polish organizations of the United States, and the report thereon from Col. Thomas W. Symons, superintendent of public buildings and grounds. In view of the recommendation of Colonel Symons I advise that the very patriotic offer of the Polish organizations be accepted and that instead of the statue of Pulaski (which in the judgment of his Polish compatriots should be an equestrian statue, and which it is now proposed to place in reservation 33, on the north side of Pennsylvania avenue, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets), there be a pedestrian statue of Kosciuszko accepted by the Government to be placed on one of the four corners of Lafayette square. These four corners would thus ultimately be occupied by statues of Lafayette, Rochambeau, Von Steuben, and Kosciuszko, all of whom in the stormy days which saw the birth of the Republic rendered service which can never be forgotten by our people.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WHITE HOUSE, *January 28, 1904.*

The report of Colonel Symons referred to by the President in the above message is as follows:

OFFICE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS,
Washington, January 25, 1904.

THE PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to report in compliance with your request that the liberal and patriotic offer of the Polish societies of America, to present to the United States a statue of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, can very properly be accepted and their request that a place for such statue be reserved on Lafayette square can be complied with.

The southeast and southwest corners of Lafayette square are occupied by pedestrian statues of Lafayette and Rochambeau, and it has been the general plan to place pedestrian statues of Pulaski and Von Steuben, for which money has been appropriated by Congress, on the other two corners. This would place at each corner one of the distinguished foreign-born aids in our Revolutionary struggle.

The Polish people, who take a strong interest in the matter, are averse, however, to the erection of a pedestrian statue to Pulaski, and insist that he should have an equestrian statue, as he was strictly a cavalry officer.

It is not deemed proper to place an equestrian statue in one corner of Lafayette square while the other corners are occupied by pedestrian statues, and the Polish societies were made aware of the fact.

In order to meet the situation the Polish societies propose to contribute a pedestrian statue to another great Pole of the Revolutionary period, Kosciuszko, to be placed on the site heretofore designed for the Government statue of Pulaski in Lafayette square, leaving the Statue Commission free to provide an equestrian statue to Pulaski and place it elsewhere on some suitable site.

And I beg to inform you that the Pulaski and Von Steuben Statue Commissions at their meeting last Friday, January 22, passed resolutions approving as far as they could of the proposition reserving the northwest and northeast corners of Lafayette Square for statues to Von Steuben and Kosciuszko, and designating reservation 33, on the north side of Pennsylvania avenue, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, for an equestrian statue to Pulaski. A bill has been introduced in Congress authorizing the acceptance of a statue of Kosciuszko as a gift from the Polish people of America.

There is no reason known to me why this offer of the Polish societies should not be accepted and their request complied with, and every reason why the offer should be accepted with deep appreciation and warm thanks.

The letter of the Polish societies is returned herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. W. SYMONS,

Colonel, U. S. Army, Major, Corps of Engineers.

The statue proposed will probably cost \$40,000 to \$50,000. It is offered to the United States as a free gift by our Polish-American fellow-citizens. While it honors one of their compatriots, and thus of course honors them, it adds another element of artistic beauty and historic interest to the nation's capital city. This is an offer of unprecedented generosity, and the committee takes pleasure in recommending its prompt acceptance.

